



U.S. Department of Justice

United States Attorney
Eastern District of California

501 I Street, Suite 10-100
Sacramento, California 95814

916/554-2700
Fax 916/554-2900

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Contact: Patty Pontello, 916-554-2706

UNITED STATES ATTORNEY'S OFFICE ANNOUNCES AWARD OF FEDERAL *COPS IN SCHOOLS* FUNDS TO AREA POLICE AGENCIES

SACRAMENTO--United States Attorney McGregor W. Scott announced today that of the three California law enforcement agencies receiving new grants under the *COPS in Schools* program, two were in the Eastern District of California, ***Livingston Police Department*** and ***Marysville Police Department***. The third agency was Santa Paula Police Department in Southern California. Said Mr. Scott, "It is hard to imagine a more important objective than providing safe schools for our children to attend."

The funding for the Livingston and Marysville agencies was part of an award of \$20.7 million by the United States Department of Justice, Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) announced today to add 194 officers to schools nationwide. The grants are being awarded to 111 law enforcement agencies in 42 states and Puerto Rico through the *COPS In Schools* program, which funds the hiring of police officers who are assigned to a school as their community policing beat.

The grants provide a maximum of \$125,000 toward the salary and benefits of each new School Resource Officer (SRO) over three years. COPS also delivers training on school safety issues for each new SRO, and an administrator from the school to which the officer is assigned. The training includes topics ranging from developing emergency response plans and conducting safety assessments of schools, to child development and cultural fluency.

While the specific duties of an SRO are determined locally based on the needs of the community, a SROs presence on campus deters crime and violence, and provides an immediate response to occurrences that cannot be prevented. Many SROs also participate in classroom instruction on state and local laws, substance abuse, and driver education, or become involved in extracurricular activities that enable them to serve as a role model for students who might not otherwise have positive interactions with law enforcement.

Including today's grants, the *COPS In Schools* program has provided over \$700 million to hire and train 6,300 school resource officers. For additional information, visit www.cops.usdoj.gov.

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